

REMARKS

The Official Action of August 19, 2005, and the prior art cited and relied upon therein have been carefully studied. The claims in the application are now claims 2-10 and 12-14, and these claims define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable reconsideration and such allowance are respectfully urged.

Claims 1 and 11 have been canceled and new claims 12-14 added. Claims 2-10 and 12-14 remain in the application for consideration.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's objection to the drawings. The basis for the pull-apart magnets 25 is clearly set out on page 7, line 7 of the disclosure. Both Figs. 1 and 2 show the pull-apart magnets 25 on both sides of carriage 19. Applicant respectfully submits that this objection has now been overcome.

Applicant has, however, enclosed an amendment to Fig. 2, wherein the multiple use of numeral "33" has now been corrected by numbering the "second longitudinal position" as "39" rather than "33". Corresponding amendments have also been made on page 8 of the disclosure.

In response to the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection, Applicant has canceled independent claims 1 and 11 in favor of new claims 12 and 13, and amended claims 3-5 so as to eliminate each of the problems identified by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has now been overcome.

The Examiner has further rejected claims 1-11 (as best understood) under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schmitt '179. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as applied to new independent claims 12 and 13 and the dependent claims as amended.

The claimed invention is directed to longitudinal conveying means that can be moved in a longitudinal direction until it terminates in a first longitudinal position adjacent a working site while bridging over a second tendering position. In this position, a single lifting means can feed sheet metal panels from a stack from a first tendering position onto the longitudinal conveying means. In a second longitudinal position, the longitudinal conveying means is moved away from the working site to clear the second tendering position to permit the same single lifting means to feed sheet metal panels from a second stack in the second tendering position.

One of the primary and unique features of the claimed invention is the longitudinal conveying means which can bridge over either the first or second tendering position to permit the single lifting means to lift metal plates from a stack at the first or second tendering position, cleared when the alternate position is closed. Schmitt does not teach or show any bridging over a tendering positions while an alternative position is open, as claimed by Applicant.

Further, Schmitt uses a total of three different lifting means 2, 9, 10 whereas the claimed invention is limited to a single lifting means. Finally, Applicant submits that the Schmitt sensor identified by the Examiner in column 3, line 66 does not serve the same function as that claimed by Applicant in claim 8.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention clearly patentably defines over the cited prior art, that the remaining claims are all allowable, and that this application is now in condition for allowance.

Acknowledgement by the PTO of the receipt of applicants' papers filed under Section 119 is noted.

The prior art documents made of record and not relied upon have been noted along with the implication that such documents are deemed by the PTO to be insufficiently pertinent

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to warrant their applications against any of applicant's claims.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2. This sheet, which includes Fig. 2, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 2. In Fig. 2, the second longitudinal position "33" has been corrected to show "39".

Attachment: Replacement Drawing Sheet

Annotated Drawing Sheet Showing Changes

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ANNOTATED DRAWING SHEET SHOWING CHANGES

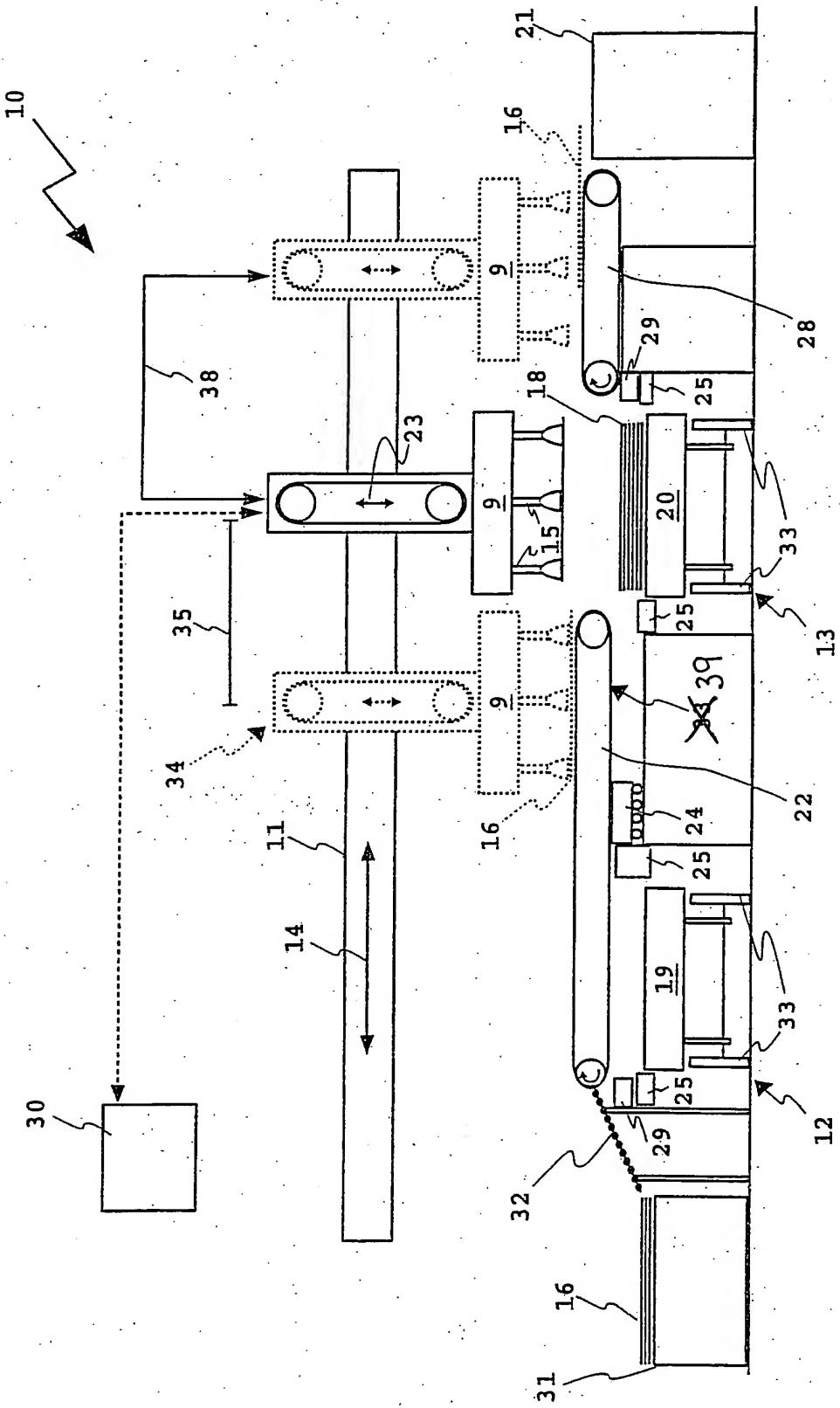


Fig. 2